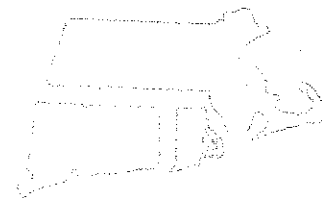




**Independent Electrical Contractors
of New England, Inc.**



**TESTIMONY OF
LISA HUTNER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
INDEPENDENT ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS OF NEW ENGLAND
BEFORE THE
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
MARCH 3, 2009**

As a trade association that represents many small employers, IEC oppose **HB-6534, An Act Concerning Labor Union Authorization Card Checks**. The proposal allows for the state Labor Relations Board to investigate public card-check campaigns during union organizing drives when a compliant has been filed.

Currently, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) requires a government-supervised secret ballot election to recognize a union as a collective bargaining unit once the union has collected authorization cards signed by 30% of the employees. An employer may also choose to recognize the union based on presentation of a majority of employee-signed union authorization cards.

We are concerned that HB-6534 ultimately seeks to deny employees the right to vote in a secret ballot election supervised by the NLRB. We believe that this measure opens the door to a situation where the state Board of Labor Relations could immediately recognize the results of a card check campaign, without a secret ballot election, if a majority of employees have signed a union authorization card.

HB-6534 will discourage companies from expanding or relocating in Connecticut, which are all critical to building and retaining a strong economy. While we encourage our member companies to treat employees fairly, IEC strongly opposes any effort to strip employees of the right to a secret ballot or deprive employers the right to express their views on union organizing, which is a right that is protected under Section 8 (c) of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA).

The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England is the premier trade association representing Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island independent electrical contractors aggressively working with the industry to establish a free environment for merit shop -- a philosophy that promotes the concept of free enterprise, open competition and economic opportunity for all.

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